

Worship Outline

Advent 3

December 15, 2019

We Gather

Prelude

Good King Wenscelas
GPC Orchestra

+Opening Hymn 106
Zion

Prepare the Way, O

+Call to Worship (responsive)

The Lord has done wonderful things for us,
offering us new life when we were in the wilderness...

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! O my soul!

The Lord has done wonderful things for our community,
offering us the gift of new opportunities, new vistas in ministry...

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! O my soul!

The Lord has done wonderful things for us,
offering us the challenge of changing paths...

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! O my soul!

Praise the Lord! Let us gather to praise our God!

Let us gather for worship in this Advent Season
of waiting, of preparation, of new life, and new possibilities!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! O my soul! Amen.

+Candle Lighting Liturgy

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.*

*O Come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to the O Israel.*

*O come, thou Root of Jesse,
free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell they people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to the O Israel.*

Reader One: Sometimes on our journey, our feet get heavy, our shoulders feel burdened, and our hearts seem slow. Sometimes in the preparation, the busyness overwhelms us, and we get lost in the doing and the planning and the running. And what we lose is a sense of why. Why do we do all of this? Why is this journey necessary? And the answer is simple: for the joy of it. We forget the joy when we get caught up in the to-do lists. We forget the joy when we worry more about how things look than connecting with others.

Reader Two: Matthew tells us that when John asked if Jesus was the one to come, Jesus responded by saying look around you. Our call in this Advent journey is to look around us to see the one who comes already at work among us and to celebrate that presence with joy.

Reader One: We light the candles of peace and hope and joy to light our way as we journey.

(Light three candles on the wreath.)

Reader Two: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that God may teach us the ways of peace and hope and joy.

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Unison Prayer of Confession

Let the desert rejoice, and let the dry land be glad,
for God has come to save us. Let us confess our sin.

**God of majesty and glory,
we are thirsty for your grace.
You made a way for us in the wilderness,
and still, in our foolishness, we go astray.
We hide our eyes from your presence.
We do not listen to your word.
We are lifeless when we ought to dance
and speechless when we ought to sing.**

**Forgive us, O Lord.
Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
strengthen our weak hands,
and make firm our feeble knees
as we seek to follow in your holy way.**

Silence is kept.

Assurance

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness.
Sing a song of redemption!
Let sorrow and sighing be no more.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Isa. 35:10

Thanks be to God.

The Peace and Welcome

In Jesus Christ, we know God's forgiveness and peace.
Let us share that peace with one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

+Gathering Song 141 (verse 4)

*On this day angels sing;
with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us;
Peace and love he gave us.
Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o,
id-e-o gloria in excelsis De-o!*

Sharing the Story

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Let us pray...Lord God, in this dry and dusty place, pour out the power of your Spirit so that your Word may blossom in our lives; through Jesus Christ, our way in the wilderness. Amen.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah. Let us listen for God's word.

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. 8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Arr. by Ruth Dwyer

Children and Youth Choirs

Soloists: Maddie Kanerva, Lilly Anderson, & Lauren Keeley

Gospel

Luke 1:39-56

39In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." 46And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." 56And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Liz Rolf Kanerva

Anthem

Rise Up That Holy Night

Liebergan
Chancel Choir
Martha Keeley, flute

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

+Hymn 92

While We Are Waiting

Offering

Invitation

When one of our community has cause to rejoice, we all have cause to rejoice. The delight of our neighbor is also our delight. The well-being of the earth is our own wellness. Our joy is entangled - yours and mine and ours and all of us. And so let us bring what we have together, seeking - with God's help - equity for all life.

Offertory

Patapan
Burgundian Carol
Arr by Martha Lynn Thompson
Hand Bell Choir

+Doxology #84 (verse 4)

*To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. A-men.*

+Dedication

Holy One, for all the ways you deliver us from evil, from apathy, and from despair, we give you thanks. You bring us out of lands of desperation and into a world of abundance. And so, we bring our gifts with gratitude. May they be blessed to furthering the spirit of joy wherever it is most needed. Amen.

Sending

+Hymn 80

You Shall Go Out with Joy

+Benediction and Blessing

Postlude

The Westminster Coral
French Carol, arr. Wilson